



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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www.deq.state.mt.us

Judy H. Martz, Governor

February 7, 2001

Jack W. McGraw
Acting Regional Administrator
USEPA Region VIII
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202-2466

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USEPA RAB'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. McGraw:

I would like to take this opportunity to present the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) views on the disposal of contaminated soil and debris at the mine site.

Currently, contaminated soil and debris are stockpiled at the former W.R. Grace Screening Plant waiting disposal at a proper facility. DEQ believes the most appropriate disposal location for this material is at the former vermiculite mine site. All parties are aware of the need for addressing reclamation efforts at the former mine. Specifically, DEQ believes that the large volume of contaminated soils can be hauled to the mine for later use in reclaiming portions of the coarse tailings pile, which are eroding and in need of immediate repair. In addition, the current owners of the former Screening Plant have been understanding and unintrusive during EPA's removal efforts at their property; however, their lives have been greatly affected for more than a year. The sooner the contaminated material is hauled away, the sooner the landowners can regain their property and way of life.

DEQ approves of this particular disposal at the mine.

Thank you for this opportunity to share DEQ's viewpoint with you.

Sincerely,

Jan P. Sensibaugh
Director